#### DOINGS OF THE VAN LOOMS



# The Fatal

GEORGE ALLAN ENGLAND.

Author of "Darkness and Dawn," "The Empire in the Air." "The Golden Blight," "The After-Glow," "Beyond the Great "The Crime-Detec-Oblivion." tor," etc.

Copyright. The Frank A. Munsey Co.

#### PREFATORY NOTE.

In presenting this unusual story to our readers we would like to give a little information concerning the peculiar manner in which it came to be written. Perhaps by doing so some further data may be brought to light, and more knowledge may be gained regarding certain still obscure details.

On January 8, 1915, a letter was received from a member of the Legion of Honor, Mr. Everett O. Hawley, of Hampton, Connecticut, stating that he had recently bought a rather singular volume at an auction held at the Perham farm, Howard's Valley, near Hampton. This volume he described as the diary of a woman named Myrah Bloss, deceased.

Miss Bloss had been a trained purse, and later a physician. She had left a remarkable narrative in her memmoirs, so he said. He seemed to

to be a curious document of fascinatmentary in places. The first few pages were gone. Acrangement with Mr. with restless pulse of activity. using it.

most extraordinarily beautiful woman. and badly wrinkled, had obviously suf- glow. fered much abuse. It seems to substantiate the truth of the narrative, which, moreover, appears to be perfeetly straightforward, consistent, and

Mr. George Alian England was commissioned to undertake the work of reconstructing the story. Mr. England went to Hampton to investigate the origin of the diary, and, if possible, to get some facts about its author.

He interviewed Mr. Hawley, Mr. Perham (owner of the farm where the book had been found), and some others. He found that Miss Bloss, retiring after an active life, had lived for three years and eight months on the Perham farm; that she had been melancholy and depressed, subject to unexplained "spells" of weeping; that she had done a good deal of writing. and that she had died at the age of fifty-three on August 18, 1897. He also found and identified her grave in the Litchfield cemetery, near Hampton. No relatives attended the funeral.

Miss Bloss seems to have been of a New Hampshire family, but nothing of them is yet known. Cause of death is entered on the Hampton town-records as pernicions anemia complicated by nervous breakdown.

Mr. England has been obliged to invent the prologue to the story, as nothing appears in the Bloss diary previous to the 22nd of March, 1892. From that point onward, however, he closely follows the known facts. The story can, therefore, be accepted as essentially true in all its major fea-

If any of our readers possess any indata that might shed further light on the case, explain any of its puzzles, or offer any facts as to the characters of the persons involved-with especial reference to the woman known as Alexandra-Mr. England would appre-

ciate receiving such information. Please address all communications to Mr. England, Box 431, Springfield,

"The Fatal Gift" is an extraordinary tale. Were it not so strongly buttressed by documentary proof it might well be considered another ingenious invention of Mr. England's somewhat violent imagination. This time, however, England has apparent-

ly followed the lead of sober truth." Does "The Fatal Gift" prove the ancient saw that truth is sometimes stranger than fiction?

#### PROLOGUE.

It was only toward the end of March, 1892, that Vitall Ergazy and Andre Brodeur obtained the consent of the woman known as Alexandra to under-

take the extraordinary experiment, thin smoke vapor, Until that time-long as she seems to have known both men, and closely bound in ties of friendship as all three seem to have been-she had apparently declined to let them employ her as

Tempting though the lure was, some fatalistic tinge of soul, characteristic of the Slav, had seemingly repelled her from the idea of interfering with the endowments that nature had bestowed upon her. But finally Ergazy's argument, seconded by the vivid pictures of world-fame painted by Brodeur's unusual imaginative power, swayed her from her attitude of op-

The final interview took place some time near the 20th of March in Alexandra's apartment at 115 West One Hundred and Sixth street, close to the park. For half an hour the physicians had been beseiging Alexandra with

their pleas, arguments and persuarions. And at the end the French man passionately cried, flinging out his supple right hand in a gesture of

"Beauty! Beauty such as poets have never sung nor sculptors mold ed! Beauty such as the world has never seen! Beauty beyond the dreams of high Olympus! Beauty su preme and indescribable! We offer you all this-and more!"

As she sat in her low wicker chair before the fire he paused before her and gazed on her with eyes that glowed with infinite enthusiasms. His restless pacing of the little drawing-room interrupted, he remained there looking at the woman, judging her anew by the firelight that illumined her tace in the dusk of the March even-fail.

From wishout drifted muted sounds believe the diary contained the of the city's travail and unresting life elements of a big story, and offered it -a clack, clack, clack of hoofs from The diary, when it arrived, proved the asphalt, the jangle of an ambuing into est, though somewhat frag- of the metropolis, which even then, more than twenty years ago, throbbed

Hawley were made for the privilege of | But within all was tranquilly quiet. A perfumed calm ruled the apartment With the book-a small ledger, can - a calm busily punctuated by the vas bound-came a photograph of a licking of the Louis Quinze gold clock on the fireplace-a calm in which sat This portrait, charred on the edges, and muse Alexandra in the fire-

> Smiling a little sadly she sat there, gazed into the flames, and made no answer for a while. What may not her thought have been?

Vitall Ergazy, seated by the table on whose polished top were pited American and foreign books, reviews. and music, lighted another eigarette with a nervous hand. He crossed one thin Jeg over the other and peered at Alexandra through his gold-rimmed glasses with eyes whose pupils showed a strange contraction.

A fire of eagerness burned in those peculiar eyes. Momentarily be fingered his close-cropped, black beard. "Alexandra?" he exclaimed, "Your

The woman shrugged her beautiful shoulders, half revealed through the lace of her gown, but said no word. "Beauty!" cried Andre. "We offer you exquisite beauty-and you

have no reply to give us?" She smiled up at him a little sadly, with a vast, vague doubt in her dark

turned. "How can I give on to a

question such at that?" Her English was perfect, rendered more charming still by that intangible

foreign accent. "Why can you give none? Why

not, pray?" demanded the Frenchman "Ah, mon ami, how little you un-

derstand the heart and soul of a woman! What daughter of Eve will openly admit that she is not already-"

"You minunderstand, Alexandra!" formation, clippings, letters, or other he interposed with characteristic im-

"No, Andre. On the contrary, your proposals tell me only too plainly the unwelcome truth.'

"Listen, Alexandra, 1 beg you! Charm you have-manner, poise, attraction, yes. But-why not be frank? la beaute, no, not quite. Nature has endowed you with much-with vast resources, with irresistible attractions -but has left her task a little incomplete. We, Vitall and I, offer to finish the picture. Viola! That is all!"

"To what end?" "That you may have 'perfection; that we may have helped create perfection; that the world may see perfection and rejoice, sing you, praise you, worship you!"

"Impossible," she objected, shaking her head, its shapeliness enhanced by the long and heavy braids of hair glossy as a blackbird's wing wound about in the charming Russian fashion. "Perfection does not exist,

and never can." Vitall Ergazy laughed and blew a

"Dear Alexandra," said he, "suspend your judgments. Only wait till we have remolded you nearer to the heart's desire, to quote the Persian

tent-maker, Then tell us there is any 'impossible! "Perfection is but the incarnation of the ideal. In you that ideal lies dormant, Alexandra; and in us lie the shill, the knowledge, the patience, and the faith to incarnate it-to make it a reality-to bring the whole world to

your feet!" "Only a Slav could have said that!" she smiled. "I think I begin to understand you, Vitall. In a way I seem to grasp your thought better than I do Andre's. You and I are of kindred blood. Maybe you can make

#### ----POULTRY

	WE PAY CASH AND CALL FOR
+	Turkeys, alive young to
	Turkeys, dressed, young, 16 30
t	Ducks, alive
t	
	Geese, alive
4	
Û.	Goose feathers, dry picked40
8	
	Picked Clean and Not Torn.
1	Spring chickens, alive Ib
r	Hens
	Old Roosters
r	Poultry bought without feed.
	loc above quotations if delevired.

Rabbits, each

Eggs, strictly fresh, doz. Auto Truck Service in the Country

803 Clinton St.

STEER & OLSON

Gream butter fat, per lb. .... 48c-49c

your purpose clearer than he has been able to do?"

Ergazy pondered a moment, then answered: "Alexandra, we are actuated by

wonderful hope, vision, dream, ideal, or whatever you choose to call it. Our work with you will not be personal. deeper, and nobler.

may be when knowledge such as ours is known to others, taught and train- column for less than 25c, ed by us -to uplift the world, elevate == our race, and confer on it the gift of gifts beauty!"

"And I am to be the instrument of your teaching?"

"Of our teaching, through your incredible beauty yet to be!" "A martyr, perhaps? N'yet!" she

objected in the strongest of Russian negations, "No! Not that! There will be risks-fearful risks of irreparable damage, of death, perhaps, wrought?

"Risks?" cried Andre. "None whatever! Success is positively certain! "Even so," she answered. "I am

too much the fatalist to interfere with nature. Perhaps the beauty now denied me may be mine in some future reincarnation; but in this life-" "Alexandra, mon ami, we can refucarnate van here-now!"

"In perfect beauty?" "Absolutely! You recognize the truth about yourself as Vitali here has FOR SALE-Jersey heffer. 3 years stated it, do you not? Let us cast aside the futile conventions of polite usage and tell you the actual facts. If RABBITS FOR SALE Steer and a friendship of ten or fifteen years eannot bring us all three close enough together for plain speech, the world is a misnomes.

# Phone Six Hundred Conde's Taxi Service

We are now prepared to give our customers better service as we are operating three closed Taxies and a Truck.

Kindly help us by ordering your car a few minutes before you need it.

# At Godfrey's Cut Price Grocery

No Sale is Complete until the Customer is Satisfied

CAR KING QUALITY FLOUR	
Nothing Better at Any Price-Ask Your Neighbor About it.	
49 lb. sacks King Quality Flour	\$3.1
24 lb. sack King Quality Flour	\$1.6
Extra Special, 100 98 lb. sacks high grade flour, each	\$5.5
912 lb. sacks rye flour	
Car Rural Potatoes, 5 bushel lots, per bushel	
Car Fancy Large Red Onions, per bushel	\$1.7
CHEAP FOOD FOR WAR TIMES CANNED GOODS SALE	
Carically freeh Rolled Optional 4 500 time perceted goods no lab	484

500 tins assorted goods, no labels Strictly fresh Rolled Oatmeal, 4 corn, peas, tomatoes, per tin 10c Edward G Zilm, Strictly Fresh Pearl Barley, 4 lbs. 290 Campbell's assorted soups, labels Fancy Red Beans, lb. ..... 18c damaged, 3 cans .......... 29c Choice Navy Béans, Ib. ..... 18c 30c cans Asparagus Tips ...... 15c with LOCAL APPLICATIONS, as the ... Fred E. Stedman, Deputy. Fancy Navy Beans, Ib. .... 20c No. 3 tins Peaches and Pears, in Transfer reach the seat of the disease. The within mained Helen R. Me-Choice New Split Peas, lb. .... 18c Choice New Sago, 2 lbs. for 29c 100 lbs, Choice Whole Codfish, av-Boiled Cider, per bottle ......

Wash Day Special-Labels Damaged Medium Size Galvanized Tubs., 59c Large size Galvanized Tubs ... 79c 5 gallon Galvanized Oil Can 3 gallon Galvanized Oil Can ... 39c 5 bars Swift's Pride Soap ..... 25c Cocoa and Chocolate 5 bars Swift's White Soap ..... 25c 4 bars P. & G. Mottled German . 25c 30c Borax Washing Powder . . 15c 30c package Gold Dust ..... 23c

erage weight three to six lbs.,

10c cans Lye ..... 5c

Open a New Charge Account by 'Phoneing Np. 123.

5 bars Tar or Pummo ..... 25c T. R. Godfrey

# 

Advertisements will be interted in Personal in one sense, yes; but in its this column not exceeding five lines. inner significance, vastly greater, three times 25c; one week 5oc. Each line over five, 10c per week addition. MALE HELP Plumants, Bricklaying

#### FOR RENT

FOR RENT-Five-room cottage; electric lights, gas and city water, at 503 E. Main St. Tel. 890 K. 912 Douglas St., phone 398-X.

FOR RENT-Three room flat either furnished or unfurnished. Centrally located. Telephone 95.

Somehow, I do not feel in me the FOR RENT 7-room house. Modern, 823 Clinton street. Phone 105 S. Fifth Ave., Chicago.

#### FOR SALE

sale that will average about one ket garden. Tel. 957-W.

J. O. Harris & Son.

old. Tel. Wm. Kastler, 606-W.

Olson, Thone 1065, 

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION IN AT-FINAL SETTLEMENT. H. M. Kelly, Atty.

Estate of Conrad Schmid, "eccased. by return to this office. Natice is he say given to all perons interested in said Estate, that the understaned. Administrator of the Estate of said Conrad Schmitt, deceased, will appear before the Proand State of Illinois, at the County Court House, in Ottawa, in said Couny, on Monley, the 14th day of Janu- ad. ev. A. D. 1918, for the purpose of rendering an account of his proceedings in the administration of said Estate for the final settlement, when and where any and all persons laterexted may appear and show cause, if any there be, why such account should County, El. January Term, 1918.

not be approved by the Court. Dared at Ottawa, this 27th day of McCloy, November, 1917

JAMES GREEN, Administrator.

#### FINAL SETTLEMENT.

Estate of said Stany Staudis, deceased (3843.60) Dollars, besides interest, will appear before the Propose Court directed to the Sheriff of said Counof Ulimais, at the County Court House, been returned by said Sheriff executin Ortawa, in said County, on Monday, c.i. State of Illinois, i.a. Saile County, he 14th day of January, (A. D. 1948, 88 for the purpose of rendering an ac- thy virtue of the within attachment .65 and show cause, if any there be, why wire .95 such account should not be approved. The West One Handred (100) feet mix 12:42 a.m. 50c by the Court.

November, 1917

FRANK & FOLLETT, Attende

County, Illinois. Satis County, Minois,

## Catarch-Cannot Be Cured,

19c meaned by emstitutional conditions, Medium Size Grape Juice ..... 10c an internal remedy. Hall's Cataurh 200 lbs. bulk seedless Raisins, 2 Medicine is taken internally and nets: By Fred & Stockman, Deputy 200 tins Fancy Mustard Sardines, faces of the system. Hall's Catarrh McCloy snan personally be and apwhat produce, such winderful results against you in favor of the said Plainin catarrial condition. Send for tes till, and the property attached sold to \$1.75 round trip, \$1.00 one way. Retimonials, free,

E. J. CHENEY & CO., Preps., Toledo.

O. All Droggists, Tic. Half's Family Pills for constipation Catawa, Ulinois, December 2rd, 1917.

# WANTED

"Our purpose is to give to the world, at. All advertisements in this col- Electricaly and Drafting taught by the buman race, a vision of what umn must be said in advances. No practical instruction. Big demand. advertisement will be inserted in this Positions secured. Earn \$6.90 daily up. Write for free diustrated book. Coyne Trade and Engineering Schools. 13 E. Illinois, Chicago,

> WANTED-Girl for general housework. Apply Mrs. Sidney Stiefel,

MEN TO LEARN BARBER TRADE - Prepare for lighter work, better pay, more jobs. Few weeks' completes. Day or evening. Nearly three years saved. See how. Catalogue mailed free. MOLLER BARBER COLLEGE.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE We have several lots for DR. E. A. KELLY, OTTAWA, 11.1. 1125 Columbus St. Phone 225-Y. acre of land; can be had now for Silver fills 75c to \$1. Percl. crowns, \$600.00. Easy payments; would be \$5 Gold crowns \$5 to \$8. Plates \$5 to especially desirable for poultry or mar- \$10. All work guaranteed first class Office hours in m. to 7:20 p. m.

> 129 W. Main St. LET MADAM KOSMOS help you by giving your life prediction. Send birthdate and dime. De Laurene Kosmos, Box 291, Louisville, Ky.

#### LOST

LOST-A small parse on Columbus Osteopathic physician, 402-3-4 Molon street, or in down lown district. with some change in it. Finder kind-

#### FOUND

base Court of the County of La Salle FOUND-A pocket book at noon today. Owner can have same by calling at this office and paying for this

#### TACHMENT.

John W. Dubbs, Plaintiff's Atty. State of Illinois, La Satle County, ss. In the Circuit Court of La Saile George E. Blanchard vs. Helen R.

In Attachment, Demand 8842 60. Notice is hereby given to you, the said Helen R. McCloy that a Writ of Attachment has been sued out of the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of said County of La Salle, at the sail of the said George E. Blanchard. Notice is hereby given to all per- and against the estate of you, the sons interested in said Estate, that said Holen R. McClop for Eight Hunthe undersigned, Administrator of the deed and Forty Three and 60-100 of the County of La Salle and State by to execute, which said Well has

count of his proceedings in the ad- writ I have this 3rd day of December. munistration of said Estate for the 1917 levied on the following describfinal selflement, when and where any od property as the property of the P, M,-1:50c, 3:50c, 4:50d, 5:50c, 19 and all persons interested may appear within named Helen R. McCloy to-

of Lot Two (2) Black Pitty-is (56), Dated at Ocawa, this 27th day of in the Original Town of Mendota, and the West One Hundred (100) tion for McKinley Park, Grand Ridge toot off of Lots One (1) and Two (2), and Streator, in \* Administrator, in Black Twenty four (21), in the till A. M. 5:50, 6:50h, 7:50, 9:50, 11:50. nois Central Rallroad Company's Ad- P. M .- 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 4:00, 11:35, Cierk of Probate Court, La Salle dition to the Town of Mendotz, all a Marseilles and Intermediate points. situated in the city of Mendota, La h Marseilles, Morris, Seneca and in-

E. M. DAVIS, Shoriff.

Catarrie is a local disease, greatly in- Cloy not found in my County this 3rd of La Saile and intermediate points.

E. M. DAVIS, Sheriff.

3 cans Gold Label Sardines ... 25c the best physicians in this country County on the first day of the next way tor years. It is composed of some of ferm thereof, to be holden at Ottawn. Quart Jars Cocoa ........... 29c the best tonics known, combined with in said County, on the second Monday 25c cakes Baking Chocolate ... 19c some of the heat blood portions. The in the month of January A. D. 1918. perfect combination of the ingredi next give special ball and plead to \$1.50 until Monday, 12:00 noon, ents in Wall's Catarrh Medicine is said action, judgment will be entered following date of sale for return trip.

> satisfy the same, with costs, JOHN L. WITZEMAN

## **Professional Cards**

PROF. JOSEPH A. REARDON,

Planist and Teacher. Studio, 123 Colwell Apartments, opposite Washington park. Phone 884-L.

#### M. N. ARMSTRONG.

Attorney at law, 219-211 Molone, Bidg., Ottawa, Illinois. Telephones Cflice, 375-W. Residence, 312-Y.

#### L. W. BREWER.

Attorney and counsellor at law and solicitor in chancer;. Will practice law in the several courts and to the federal courts. Special atten tion given to all real estate cases of La Sails and adjoining counties. including drainage questions.

B. F. LINCOLN. Attorney at law, office, La Salle St. west of court house.

Specialist-eye, ear, nose and throat Third floor Central Life Building Phones: Office 1019 W. Res., Main 942

DR. W. S. BLUE,

M'DO'JGALL & CHAPMAN. Attorneys at law, National Bank Bldg. Ottawa, III.

W. H. JAMIESON, S. B., M. D., Physician and Surgeon: 'phone office, 322-W., residence, Main 643. Of fice in Armory block, Professional calls in city or country will receive faithful attention. Ottawa, Ill.

JAMES J. CONWAY. Attorney and counselor at law, office. rooms 408 and 407 Molone Bldg. Orrawa, Illinois.

WILLIAM I. HIBBS, Attorney at law, office west of cour

#### LADIES, READ THIS:

house - Phone, Main 161.

Magnetic Healer treatments given by one of your own sex for those tired out nerves. Headache, Rheumatism and all nervous troubles. Prices reasonable, ELLA WESTCOTT, 828 La Salle street, after 3 o'clock 'phone, 556-K., Ottawa, Illinois.

T. W. BURROWS, M. D., Physician and Surgeon, office, at rest dence, 810 Columbus street, Office hours, 1 to 3 p. m.

### DOCTOR CARTER.

ey Bldg., Ottawa, Ill. 'Phone: Of fice, 385-R.; residence, 367-K.

# DR. J. J. MORIARTY,

Osteopathic Physician. Hours: 9 to 12 a. m.; 2 to 5 p. m.; 7 to 8 p. m. 'Phones, office, Main 215-R.: restdence, 882-X. Moloney Bldg., Ottawa, Illinois.

## CHICAGO, OTTAWA & PEORIA RAILWAY



OTTAWA, ILL Eastbound. Eastbound cars leave Ottawa station for Marseilles, Seneca, Marris, Minuoka Rockettle and Joliet, Ill. in A. M. -5:45, 6:10a, 7:50, 9:50, 11:50

(Effective Sept. 9, 1917.)

P. M.--Igin, 3:50, 4:50b, 5:50, 9:00, Cars arrive from the west at 1:00 a. m., 8:45 a. m., 12:50 p. m., 6:50 p. tn., 11:35 p. m.

#### Westbound.

Westbound cars leave Ottawa station for Chantauqua Park, Starved Rock, Utica, La Salle, Peru, Spring Valley, Ladd, De Pue, Bureau, Prince-

A. M.-5:10a, 5:50c, 6:50d, 8:80c,

7:50e, 9:50e, 11:00f. Cars arrive from east at 6:50g p.

#### Southbound.

Southbound cars leave Ottawa sta-

termediate points.

· Princeton and intermediate points d Ladd and intermediate points. F '9 of Illinois, La Salle County, ss. e Princeton hadd and intermediate

> g Sundays and holidays only. h Daily except Sunday

ALWAYS BUY TICKETS AND SAVE

Pares to Chicago, Ill. Joliet, Lin

#### WEEK END EXCURSION Every Saturday and Sunday.

round trip. Tickets limited EVERY DAY FARES.

turn trip limited to ren days. WELLS FARGO EXPRESS TO ALL POINTS.

Phone egents for full information